

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 /031 W

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R 121335Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8397

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAIA, FI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-FINNAIR'S SERVICES TO NEW YORK

REF: STATE 024307

1. SUMMARY: NOTE DELIVERED ON MARCH 11 TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AS REQUESTED REFTEL. REACTION WAS PREDICTABLY ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND SURPRISE. REQUEST THAT FINNAIR'S PROPOSED SEAT CAPACITY BETWEEN NEW YORK AND COPENHAGEN/AMSTERDAM TO REDUCED TO 1974 LEVEL WAS NOTED ALONG WITH FACT NEW SCHEDULES GO INTO EFFECT APRIL 1. MFA INQUIRED ABOUT INFORMAL MEETING WITH USG AVIATION OFFICIALS PRIOR TO FORMAL REPLY TO NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY NOTE NO. 31 DATED MARCH 11, 1975, CONTAINING TEXT PER REFTEL, DELIVERED BY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TO SPEICAL COUNSELOR ULF-ERIC SLOTTE, CIVIL AVIATION SPECIALIST IN MINSTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF DISMAY AND SURPRISE. HE SAID THAT FINNAIR'S PLANNED INCREASE IN TRANSATLANTIC SEAT CAPACITY DURING THE APRIL 1-SEPTEMBER 31 PERIOD IS

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SOLELY THE NATURAL RESULT OF COMING INTO SERVICE OF

DC-10'S FINLAND ORDERED FROM MACDONNELL-DOUGLAS IN 1971 (PLANES ONLY NOW BEING DELIVERED). ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE FIGURES AT HAND, HE BELIEVED NUMBER OF FLIGHTS PER WEEK WAS ACTUALLY BEING REDUCED.

4. EMBOFF POINTED TO U.S. SEVEN-POINT PLAN TO ASSIST AILING U.S. AIRLINES BY REDUCING EXCESS AIRLINE CAPACITY ON NORTH ATLANTIC, AND TO PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN BOTH MAJOR AND SECONDARY MARKETS IN THE WAY OF CAPACITY REDUCTION AGREEMENTS. SLOTTÉ SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD UNDERSTAND PROBLEM AND U.S. PROGRAM, THERE WERE MANY IN FINLAND WHO WOULD NOT. FINNAIR HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM FOR ITS PREFERENCE AND U.S. PLANES AND SEVERE APPLICATION OF U.S. PROGRAM WOULD SHARPLY INTENSIFY SUCH CRITICISM.

5. SLOTTÉ FURTHER SAID THAT NOTE CAME ONLY THREE WEEKS BEFORE NEW SCHEDULES GO INTO EFFECT APRIL 1 (THESE HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND ALL OPERATIONAL PLANS MADE). AS A PRACTICAL MATTER GOF AND FINNAIR COULD NOT REACT SO SOON. HE NOTED CAPACITY REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOME OTHER AIRLINES/GOVERNMENTS HAD BEGUN MONTHS AGO.

6. SLOTTÉ SAID THAT U.S. NOTE WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT MEETING MARCH 14 OF GOVERNMENT AVIATION POLICY BOARD. MEANWHILE HE ASKED WHETHER AN INFORMAL MEETING OF FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES WITH U.S. AVIATION AUTHORITIES EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO FORMAL FINNISH REPLY TO NOTE WOULD BE USEFUL. PLEASE ADVISE.
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